

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: TOURISM AUSTRALIA
TOPIC: EMPLOYEES WITH OTHER LANGUAGE SKILLS
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

(Note: Responses for the Department and other portfolio agencies provided previously.)

QUESTION No.102
(Written QON)

Senator Ludwig asked:

This question is a follow-up to a question Senator Ludwig asked in the 2004-05 Supplementary Estimates.

Regarding the employees that your Department or Agency has identified as having:

- a) fluency;
- b) accredited translator qualifications; or
- c) accredited interpreter qualifications.

Of these employees, please indicate what the Department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the Department and those whose were not?

ANSWER

Tourism Australia's employee induction form seeks information on whether the employee comes from a non-English Speaking background and first language spoken. This information is collected on a voluntary basis.

Approximately 28 percent of Tourism Australia employees have voluntarily identified that they come from a non-English speaking background.

Tourism Australia has established a database of staff, the languages they can speak and their proficiency, as identified by the individuals themselves. Approximately 35% of Tourism Australia employees have identified they are fluent in languages other than English. The skills and knowledge of Tourism Australia employees are utilised when interacting with industry and consumers, and to communicate policy and procedures of the organisation.

Tourism Australia has not provided funding for accreditation of language skills for any employees.